

TRIBUTE OF VENERATION,
ADDRESSED TO THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
LOYAL EDINBURGH ASSOCIATION,
FOR COMMEMORATING THE REIGN OF
GEORGE III.

BY ANDREW DUNCAN, SEN. M. D. & PROF.

**FIRST PHYSICIAN TO THE KING FOR SCOTLAND;
FATHER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, EDINBURGH,
AND A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CALEDONIAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.**

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TRIBUTE OF VENERATION, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

GEORGE the Third, whose long, happy, and glorious Reign we intend annually to commemorate, was born on the 4th of June 1738. He was the son of FREDERICK Prince of Wales, then heir apparent to the British Throne. It was the will of Heaven to deprive him in early life of one of the best of Fathers. But his education, under the direction of his Grandfather GEORGE the Second, and under the eye of an affectionate Mother, was entrusted to the most learned and most patriotic men to be found in Britain. Instructed by able teachers it is not wonderful that his acquirements in every branch of literature

should have soon been considerable. And it is generally allowed, that, although not a miracle in early life, his acquirements, both in languages and in science, were much above common. His proficiency in the course of youthful studies was in every respect such as qualified him to be the Sovereign of a great, an enlightened, and a free People.

Thus prepared for his future high station, on the sudden death of his Grandfather, his accession to the British Throne took place in the 22d year of his age, on the 25th of October 1760. And he continued to fill that throne till the 29th of January 1820, during a period exceeding fifty-nine years.

To give even the most superficial analysis of the many astonishing events which took place during this reign, and of which, as Sovereign, he may justly be considered as having been prime mover, would occupy much time, and fill many pages. These the faithful details of the historian will

transmit to posterity. But, without hazard of contradiction, I may venture to assert, that during no equal portion of time has the progress of the human species in arts, in science, and in civilization, been so great as during the reign of GEORGE the Third. And in that period no nation has contributed so much to this progress of the species as the British. The genius of a WEDGWOOD, an ARKWRIGHT, a WATT, and a BLACK, have extended our manufactures, formerly supposed to be in a state of high perfection, to a degree almost incredible. The steam engine, employed either on land or on sea, has to a wonderful degree facilitated motion, and saved manual labour; while the simple decomposition of coal or of oil has illuminated our streets and our houses, in a manner of which the most acute philosopher fifty years ago had not the most distant expectation, or even the slightest conception.

In the higher branches of philosophy the progress has not been less considerable. The enterprising spirit of Sir JOSEPH BANKS has extended to a very great degree our knowledge of the contents of this world, both in its mineral, vegetable and animal kingdoms: While the extensive mind and the industrious art of HERSCHELL, has introduced to our acquaintance many new worlds. During this period also, the most immediately interesting of all arts, the alleviation of human misery by the cure of disease, has been materially improved by the genius, the judgment, and the study of MONRO, CULLEN, HUNTER and HEBERDEN. To all these, and to every other man of original genius and real worth, GEORGE the Third was a steady, munificent and princely Patron.

But during the reign of GEORGE the Third, Britain was not more distinguished by the astonishing progress of the arts of peace than by achievements in arms

Victories have been long, and perhaps too much, considered as the tests of national glory. For these also this period has been eminently conspicuous. At the time of the accession of GEORGE the Third to the British Throne, the nation was engaged in a war extended to every quarter of the Globe, which, though successful both by sea and land, was yet perilous. The victories, however, of the British arms in Europe, in Asia, and in America, soon enabled him to obtain a safe and honourable peace. But that peace was of short duration. Those American Colonies, whose interest and safety had been particularly consulted in the treaty of peace, soon involved Britain in another war. And but a few years after the termination of that second war of this reign, the insanity of a democratical spirit in France, aided by the singular and enterprising genius of the greatest tyrant who perhaps ever lived, forced our peaceable Monarch into a third war, which was absolutely

necessary for the salvation, not only of Britain, but of Europe.

The brilliant success of these three wars is minutely related by candid and accurate historians. To mention even the names of those who will be immortalized in authentic records, would occupy much time. Suffice it to say, that the victories obtained by WOLFE, by ABERCROMBY and by WELLINGTON ; by HAWKE, by DUNCAN, and by NELSON, are perhaps, in many particulars, unequalled in the annals of nations, especially by the beneficial consequences which resulted from them.

But the reign of GEORGE the Third was not more remarkable for Heroes than for Statesmen. The Earl of CHATHAM, CHARLES FOX and WILLIAM PITT, at different periods directed the Counsels of Britain in a manner not inferior to the achievements of her Commanders by sea or land.

The brilliancy of this reign, however, for Sailors, for Soldiers and for Statesmen,

did not exceed the lustre which it derived from the KING. On him was imposed the necessary duty of declaring war, and to him belonged the more humane office of restoring peace, on three different occasions. The terminations of these three wars, in my opinion, do even greater honour to his reign than the most splendid victories. By the last peace, in particular the wounds of numerous nations were almost miraculously healed, and the blessings of tranquillity restored to all Europe, when reduced to a state of the utmost exhaustion by innumerable calamities.

At the close of the wonderful reign of GEORGE the Third, the British Empire, which, to use the words of a great orator, began with a few islands, hardly visible on the face of the Globe, had risen to an extent of territory unequalled in the history of Nations. At the period of his death the colonies of Britain in America, in Africa and in Asia, far exceeded the Empires either of Persia, of Macedon or

of Rome, in the days of their greatest glory. Our East India possessions alone had added to the British dominions more than an hundred millions of individuals. But these immense numbers were not only subjected to the temperate rule of GEORGE the Third, but were made partakers of the blessings of the British Constitution. To the meanest subject of the British Empire, in every quarter of the Globe, even his cottage became a castle, and he received the protection of equitable laws, under the administration of trial by Jury, the most valuable privilege in Government which human invention has ever yet devised.

But GEORGE the Third was not more remarkable as the greatest Sovereign in the world, than as one of the best of men. As a Husband and a Father, he afforded an example to his subjects, which has rarely been equalled and perhaps was never excelled. He did not indeed altogether escape censure or sarcasm. But the virulent

satire of a JUNIUS, founded on falsehood, and the ridiculous wit of a PETER PINDAR, exciting the laugh of the moment, at unpremeditated conversation, led only to the investigation and the disclosure of truths, which displayed the goodness of the King's heart.

Even his amusements were highly beneficial to the Nation. The subjects which in that way chiefly engaged his attention, were Agriculture and Horticulture. The principal Nobility, the most opulent commoners and the greatest patriots in the Kingdom, followed the example of their Sovereign. And by this means from the produce of Britain itself, a very great addition was made both to the necessaries, the comforts and the luxuries of life. During his reign Britain has never been visited by a state of famine or even of want. For when the most unpropitious seasons produced the most scanty crops, by the aid of our shipping,

the British colonies in America, in Africa and in Asia, supplied us with abundance.

Besides Agriculture and Horticulture, another of what might be called the favourite amusements of GEORGE the Third, was Architecture: And in this way also there is reason to believe, that his example had a very powerful influence. For it is an undeniable fact, that during his reign commodious dwelling-houses for Britons, particularly in the three metropolitan cities of London, Dublin and Edinburgh, have been built to an extent truly astonishing.

It may therefore with the most perfect confidence be asserted, that as far as dependence can be put either on oral tradition, or on the records of authentic history, not only the real happiness of the nation, but the progress of the species in Britain, has, during the reign of GEORGE the Third, been infinitely greater than during any preceding century. What then ought to be our gratitude to Heaven, for having

blessed Britain with **GEORGE** the **Third**,
as our Sovereign for so long a period!
I trust **Gentlemen**, that we and our pos-
terity shall never fail regularly to call to our
remembrance his long, happy and glorious
reign on the anniversary of his **Birth-day**.
For **I** am persuaded that my sentiments
perfectly coincide with those of a great
majority of true Britons, when **I** declare
my firm and sincere conviction, that there
never reigned a better **King**,—that there
never lived a better **Man**.

APPENDIX.

IT may be thought surprising, when mention is made of GEORGE the Third as an exemplary husband, that nothing is said of his truly excellent QUEEN. To this, and to many other omissions Dr DUNCAN was led, from considering brevity as essentially necessary. But that he entertained a very high opinion of the virtues of our late Queen, may be inferred from the following circumstance.

For many years past, on the morning of May day, when the English villagers, are dancing round the May-Pole, he has been in the practice of walking to the Top of ARTHUR'S SEAT, a high hill in the Vicinity of Edinburgh, to return thanks, on the termination of his labours for the Winter Session, to that God, whose temple is all space. On the 1st of May 1817, very soon after the recovery of our late beloved Queen from

a dangerous illness, these thanks were returned in the following words :

Since last I here pour'd forth my artless lays,
 Another year is added to my days :
 Three score and ten, is mark'd the age of man,
 But three to that are added to my span.
 Let me then humbly bend my knee to Heaven,
 And thank my God, for all the blessings given ;
 For health restor'd to Her, whose tender care,
 Her faithful subjects with her children share ;
 To her, our QUEEN, whose elevated mind,
 In one wide wish, embraces all mankind ;
 In whom Britannia, to the world displays,
 The matchless miracle, of modern days :
 A Woman, in whose character is seen,
 The loving Mother, and the Patriot QUEEN ;
 A QUEEN, who in her subjects' bosoms reigns,
 And in True-Britons hearts a Parent's place maintains.
 Unequall'd as a QUEEN, a Mother, Wife,
 Long may kind Heaven preserve her precious life ;
 And may her race even to the latest time,
 On Britain's Throne with native virtue shine,

Dr DUNCAN *senior* still possesses sufficient strength, both of body and mind, to be able to take his accustomed walks: And on May-day 1821, accompanied by four Grandsons, he expressed his thanks to God, on the Top of ARTHUR'S SEAT, at an early hour in the morning, in the following terms:

Orandum est ut sit Mens sana in Corpore sano.



ALREADY seventy-seven revolving years
 Have fed my hopes, and banish'd idle fears,
 I've climb'd this Hill to view the Town below,
 The seat of pleasure, and the seat of woe :
 And now, no clouds obstruct the heavenly light,
 The Sun resplendent, never shone more bright ;
 But while I scan expanded sea and skies,
 Another prospect opens to my eyes ;
 Ardent I turn my mental eyes to Heaven,
 And thank my God for all the blessings given ;
 Earnest I pray, that life's last day may find
 Good health of Body join'd to peace of Mind ;
 And, that my race, thro' life's uncertain span,
 May prize the wisest lessons taught to man—
 “ That Virtue only is our bliss below ;
 “ And all our knowledge is, Ourselves to know.”



E Cælo descendit Γνωθι σεαυτον.